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PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DES MOINES IA
300 PM CDT WED APR 8 2009

...THIS IS SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK IN IOWA...

GOVERNOR CHET CULVER...THE IOWA HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT DIVISION...AND THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HAVE
DESIGNATED THE WEEK OF APRIL 6 TO APRIL 10 AS SEVERE WEATHER
AWARENESS WEEK IN IOWA. EACH MORNING THIS WEEK...THE NATIONAL
WEATHER SERVICE IN DES MOINES WILL ISSUE A PUBLIC INFORMATION
STATEMENT FOCUSING ON A DIFFERENT ITEM EACH DAY. TOPICS THIS
YEAR INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING...

MONDAY...FLOODING
TUESDAY...SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS
WEDNESDAY...TORNADOES
THURSDAY... NOAA ALL HAZARDS WEATHER RADIO
FRIDAY...FAMILY PREPAREDNESS

ATTENTION MEDIA...IN ORDER FOR SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK TO
BE EFFECTIVE...MEDIA COVERAGE IS CRITICAL. PLEASE USE THE
INFORMATION IN THE PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENTS IN YOUR NEWS
PROGRAMS TO HELP PROMOTE SEVERE WEATHER SAFETY. WE ALSO
ENCOURAGE MEDIA INTERVIEWS. PLEASE CONTACT JEFF JOHNSON IF YOU
ARE INTERESTED.

2008 WAS A BAD YEAR IN IOWA REGARDING TORNADOES. 105 TORNADOES
TOUCHED DOWN IN IOWA IN 2008 WHICH IS THE SECOND HIGHEST ON
RECORD. TWO INFAMOUS TORNADOES INCLUDED THE DEADLY EF3 TORNADO
WHICH STRUCK WESTERN IOWA ON JUNE 11 KILLING FOUR BOYS AT A BOYS
SCOUT CAMP...AND THE PARKERSBURG-NEW HARTFORD TORNADO ON MAY 25TH
WHICH KILLED NINE PEOPLE. THE PARKERSBURG-NEW HARTFORD TORNADO
WAS RATED EF5 AND IT WAS THE STRONGEST TORNADO TO HIT IOWA SINCE
1976.

TORNADO SAFETY TIPS...

IF A TORNADO WARNING IS ISSUED OR YOU SEE A TORNADO
APPROACHING...FOLLOW THESE SAFETY RULES.

IN A HOME OR BUILDING...MOVE TO A PRE-DESIGNATED SHELTER SUCH AS
A BASEMENT. MOVE UNDERNEATH A TABLE...WORKBENCH OR STAIRCASE.
STAY AWAY FROM CORNERS OF THE ROOM BECAUSE DEBRIS IS USUALLY
DISPLACED INTO THOSE AREAS. MOBILE HOMES...EVEN IF TIED DOWN...
OFFER LITTLE PROTECTION FROM TORNADOES AND SHOULD BE ABANDONED.

IF AN UNDERGROUND SHELTER IS NOT AVAILABLE...MOVE TO THE LOWEST...MOST INTERIOR ROOM AVAILABLE AND GET UNDER A STURDY PIECE OF FURNITURE IF POSSIBLE. STAY AWAY FROM WINDOWS.

IF IN AN OFFICE BUILDING...SHOPPING MALL OR SCHOOL...GO INTO AN INTERIOR HALLWAY AND CROUCH ON THE GROUND FLOOR AGAINST A WALL. COVER YOUR HEAD WITH YOUR HANDS. LEAVE WIDE-OPEN ROOMS LIKE GYMS...AUDITORIUMS...OR THE COMMON AREAS OF SHOPPING MALLS.

IF YOU ARE CAUGHT OUT IN THE OPEN OR IN A VEHICLE...NEVER TRY TO OUTFRAN A TORNADO...ESPECIALLY IF THEY ARE NEARBY ONES. THEY CAN MOVE AT SPEEDS OF OVER 50 MPH AND CHANGE DIRECTIONS QUICKLY. ABANDON YOUR CAR AND FIND A STURDY STRUCTURE. IF NOT AVAILABLE...CROUCH IN A ROADSIDE DITCH AND COVER YOUR HEAD WITH YOUR HANDS. HIDING IN A CAR IS NOT SAFE DURING A TORNADO SINCE IT CAN TOSS A CAR HUNDREDS OF FEET.

MAKE SURE YOUR FAMILY AND PEOPLE IN YOUR WORKPLACE ARE FAMILIAR WITH THESE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS. REVIEW THE PROCEDURES AND PRACTICE THEM DURING THE DRILL.

NOAA/S NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IS THE PRIMARY SOURCE OF WEATHER...WATER AND CLIMATE INFORMATION. THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE OPERATES THE MOST ADVANCED WEATHER AND FLOOD WARNING AND FORECAST SYSTEM IN THE WORLD HELPING TO PROTECT LIVES AND PROPERTY AND ENHANCE THE NATIONAL ECONOMY.

FOR MORE INFORMATION...GO TO THE DES MOINES NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE WEB SITE AT WWW.WEATHER.GOV/DESMOINES.

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